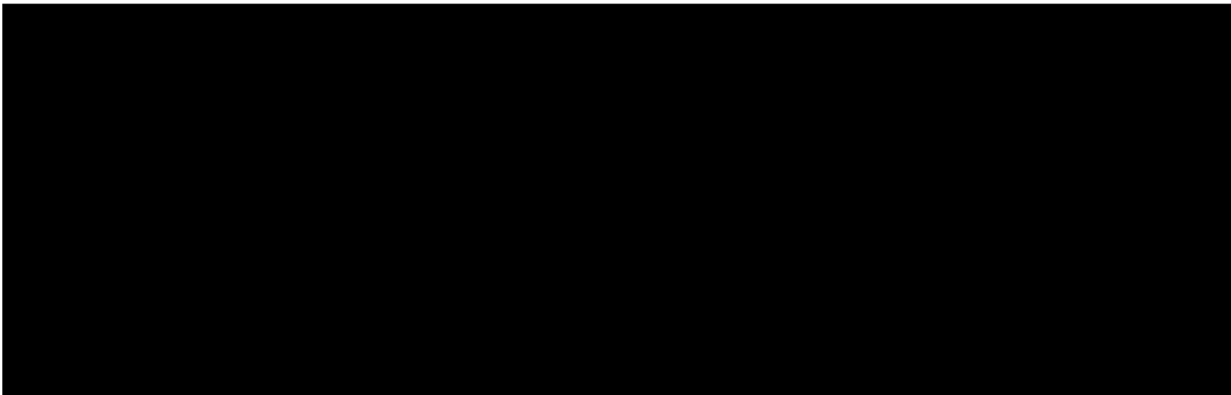


**I&S**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**I&S**



**Self-isolation in the NHS:** The Health Secretary and Simon Stevens told you at Wednesday's dashboard that growing numbers of NHS staff are having to self-isolate as a result of having come into contact with somebody who has tested positive for Covid. The data we have is imperfect, but the Covid dashboard reflects what we know. Nationally, the rates of Covid-related absences in hospitals, including self-isolation and infections, are low, at 0.8% of staff. However, the rates in the North-West are more than double that, at 1.7% and rising fast. In January, at the peak of the second wave, Covid-related absences in the NHS were 4.3%. Exemptions for NHS staff from self-isolation rules can be granted by NHS managers with responsibility for controlling infections. At a dashboard meeting next week, we should ask the Health Secretary, Simon Stevens and Jenny Harries to set out what guidance is being given to these managers.

## Irrelevant & Sensitive

**Long Covid:** PM, earlier in the week you asked for an update from the Covid taskforce on the extent and severity of Long Covid. As the CMO set out at Friday's quad, 'Long Covid' comprises a range of syndromes, many of which are familiar and understood, but with an as-yet unknown link to Covid infection. In short, we know that a significant minority of those infected with Covid-19 experience a range of symptoms for around 12 weeks after the first phase of the disease has faded. A proportion of this group have symptoms for a longer period of time and a subset of these have to take time off work. The transmissibility of Covid and the number who have had it mean that even this small subset represents enough people to pose an additional burden of the NHS, although the nature and duration of that burden remain to be seen. The NHS published a new 10 point plan for Long COVID on 15 June, including a £100 million expansion of care for patients with Long COVID.

**London Fashion Week:** (LFW) is due to take place in September. **I&S** – by far the biggest UK fashion label and anchor partner for LFW - are considering pulling out of LFW in favour of another city because they don't have travel certainty and would risk £m investment in the show. Where **I&S** go, others will follow which could make LFW unviable. Announcements on double vaccinated travellers this week will go some way to alleviate this issue, but a very tight exemption (for a small number of travellers) may also be required to give certainty so companies can commit. Business team and Policy Unit are working with the British Fashion Council, Burberry and DCMS to find a pragmatic solution which assures this global event and showcases a £35bln industry in the UK.